

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20500

June 25, 2004

RE: Docket WT 02-55 – 800 MHz Public Safety Radio Interference issue

Dear Chairman Powell,

It is with regret that I find it necessary to write, but the rancorous debate surrounding the above referenced item has reached a point that I must speak out. As the Legislative Chairman for the Maryland Fire Chief's Association, I represent 960 of our State's Fire Service Leaders. They join me in asking you to approve the Consensus Plan and allow those involved to get on with fixing the interference problems that plague our nation's emergency services.

Additionally, I would like to point out that there has been a great deal of misinformation being aired in the media regarding what is needed and more particularly, what is not needed by America's firefighters and police officers. Specifically, on June 10, 2004, a *Washington Post* article apparently quoted a Mr. Zipperstein of Verizon as saying, "Public Safety needs money, not spectrum." We are outraged at this gross misrepresentation of the position that we are in at this time. We need a solid block of spectrum to allow all public safety TRS users in the 800 MHz range to be grouped together. What we DO NOT need is Verizon's obstructionist tactics to continue. Verizon has stated that they care about public safety, and they want to help. The greatest thing that they can do to help at this point is to sit down and shut up.

Our patience is wearing extremely thin, Mr. Chairman. We need your help. Please do the right thing for public safety and move this off dead center to a successful ending, one that will make all of our jobs safer, as well as allow us to better serve our communities.

H. Edward Woods, Chairman



Legislative Committee,
Maryland Fire Chiefs Association

CC: Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Mr. Ivan Seidenberg
Mr. Steven E. Zipperstein